

CENTRAL ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

EDMONTON, Alberta, April 28/11

Dear Sir,-

Replying to your recent enquiry, I have to say that it is greatly regretted that the illustrated pamphlet descriptive of the resources of Central Alberta, is still in the hands of our printers, and will not be ready for two or three weeks yet. In order not to disappoint you, I am sending you a rough proof of the pamphlet referred to, without illustrations, which it is hoped you will find interesting.

If you would care to receive the illustrated booklet containing about forty attractive illustrations, with map, write your address on the enclosed card, and mail it, and the book will be sent you when ready.

Yours truly,

J. J. Fisher

Acting Secretary.

EDMONTON THE CAPITAL CITY OF ALBERTA, CAN.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

31st March, 1911

The figures for the third month of 1911 appear to indicate that the previous predictions made in these bulletins, as to favorable business prospects for 1911, are being fully justified.

	March, 1910	March, 1911	Increase
Customs Returns	\$ 23,990	\$ 58,546	144 %
Building Permits	266,585	276,825	4 %
Bank Clearings.	4,766,375	8,804,702	85 %
Post Office (Stamps Only)	6,640	8,501	28 %
Street Railway			
Passengers Carried	257,607	402,817	56 %
Revenue	\$11,356	\$16,843	48 1/2 %
Homestead Entries	302	440	46 %

TOTAL FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS

	1909	1910	1911	Increase 1911 over 1910
Customs Returns	\$59,340	\$76,438	\$146,598	92 %
Building Permits	311,999	339,805	399,050	17 %
Bank Clearings	10,767,031	13,832,837	24,047,602	74 %
Post Office (Stamps Only)	17,894	18,639	23,736	27 %
Street Railway				
Passengers Carried	319,068	701,125	1,067,298	52 %
Revenue	\$13,736	\$30,165	\$45,285	50 %

It will be noticed that all figures for the first three months of 1911 show a remarkable increase over those for the same period of 1910.

Edmonton still heads the list of Canadian Cities for rate of increase in Bank Clearings and Customs Returns.

Continued expansion of trade has rendered necessary greatly increased facilities for handling business. The Ames-Holden, McCready Co. are to build on Third Street; and the Great West Saddlery Co. and Nicholson & Bain on Seventh Street. These will all be heavy modern structures rendered necessary by phenomenal increase in volume of business. Work has been commenced on a six-storey building of thoroughly modern fire-proof construction on First Street, for use as a Department Store. Arrangements have recently been concluded under which P. Burns & Co. will at once commence construction of a modern Meat Packing Plant, representing an ultimate investment approximating a million dollars.

During the month, two new wholesale houses and two industries have commenced business. Enormous development in the coal industry is in immediate sight.

There is an enormous rush of a very desirable class of settlers into territory tributary to Edmonton.

THE EDMONTON BOARD OF TRADE
F. T. FISHER, Secretary

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA.

A Recapitulation of the Monthly Statistical Bulletins issued from the office of the Edmonton Board of Trade, showing expansion of business in Edmonton during 1910.

COME AND GROW WITH US.

Month	Customs Duties Collected.			Building Permits			Bank Clearings			Post Office (stamps only)			Street Railway			
	1908	1909	1910	1908	1909	1910	1908	1909	1910	1908	1909	1910	Passengers Carried		Revenue	
													1909	1910	1909	1910
January	\$11,607	\$15,425	\$19,744	\$18,915	\$20,204	\$44,090	\$3,251,626	\$3,580,021	\$5,243,160	\$4,200	\$4,704	\$6,421	75,670	223,956	\$3,256	\$9,532
February	15,645	21,695	32,704	31,415	112,400	29,130	2,395,916	3,118,801	3,823,302	4,350	5,389	5,578	99,989	219,562	4,257	9,277
March	19,845	22,220	23,990	57,020	179,395	266,585	2,854,888	4,068,209	4,766,375	4,520	7,801	6,640	142,409	257,607	6,223	11,356
April	18,631	25,779	27,513	197,460	210,890	252,196	2,890,273	4,044,055	5,370,145	4,700	5,293	6,712	152,203	261,670	6,575	11,345
May	14,081	19,126	26,180	77,362	368,005	231,055	2,972,637	3,794,559	5,368,879	4,900	4,953	6,011	152,911	292,714	7,008	12,896
June	21,316	26,888	29,913	97,645	201,290	233,670	2,955,202	4,443,482	5,350,379	4,900	5,497	6,572	182,806	311,307	7,978	13,500
July	23,010	19,156	26,718	155,775	274,355	460,066	3,211,000	4,183,287	5,831,885	4,800	5,496	6,477	204,546	343,307	8,722	14,233
August	18,008	25,480	32,811	103,352	99,707	133,900	3,032,454	4,500,162	6,274,604	4,700	5,700	6,184	194,704	389,639	8,262	17,059
September	37,512	28,529	34,261	123,425	505,199	169,863	3,275,152	4,372,344	6,368,053	5,300	5,468	6,756	220,648	312,837	9,607	13,170
October	19,235	20,255	30,870	98,735	83,535	146,874	3,429,840	4,464,143	6,927,922	4,500	5,864	7,026	242,666	331,096	10,224	13,915
November	15,806	26,429	40,009	80,505	63,365	52,606	4,117,188	5,422,819	8,020,620	5,400	6,254	8,834	229,798	363,242	9,570	15,246
December	13,556	18,586	39,023	45,255	9,780	141,321	4,100,320	5,569,136	8,287,791	5,600	7,650	10,200	249,543	381,922	10,529	15,982
Total	\$228,252	\$269,568	\$363,736	\$1,086,864	\$2,128,161	\$2,161,356	\$38,486,496	\$51,561,018	\$71,633,115	\$57,870	\$70,063	\$83,411	2,148,893	3,688,859	\$92,211	\$157,511

Two Special Building Permits were issued to the Provincial Government in 1908, as follows: Parliament Buildings, \$1,250,000; Court House, \$213,000:—building on which is still in progress

EDMONTON'S bank clearings show the largest percentage of increase of any city in Canada.

This is brought about by the expansion in Edmonton's wholesale and manufacturing business.

COME AND GROW WITH US

	1908	1909	1910	Increase, 1910 over 1909	Increase, 1910 over 1908
	\$	\$	\$	Per cent.	Per cent.
Customs duties collected	228,252	269,568	363,736	35	64
Building Permits	1,086,864	2,128,161	2,161,356	1 1/2	99
Post Office (Stamps only)	57,870	70,063	83,411	19	44
Bank Clearings	38,486,496	51,561,018	71,633,115	39	86
Street Railway					
Passengers Carried	—	2,148,893	3,688,859	72	—
Revenue	—	92,211	157,511	71	—

EDMONTON is the principal Railway centre and the Commercial, Educational and Financial Metropolis of THE LAST AND GREATEST WEST The development of the great territory commercially tributary to Edmonton has only just begun.

COME AND GROW WITH US

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CENTRAL ALBERTA

Canada's
Richest
Mixed Farming
Country



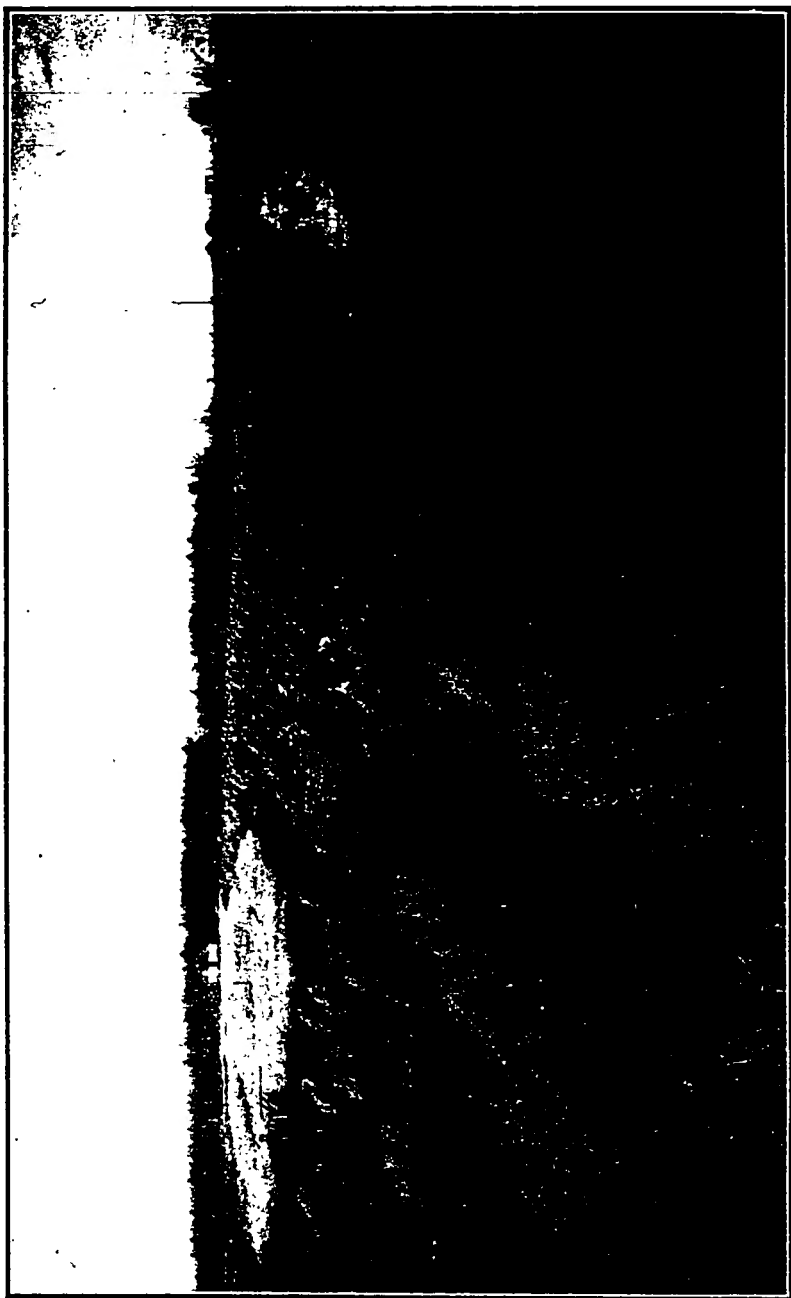
With the Compliments of
The Central Alberta
Development
League

Issued from the Office of the
Secretary, at Edmonton,
Alberta, Canada

ATHABASCA LANDING
BRUCE
CAMROSE
DAYSLAND
EDMONTON
EDSON
ENTWISTLE
ERSKINE
HARDISTY
HOLDEN
IRMA
KILLAM
LAVOY
LEDUC
LOUGHEED
MILLET
MORINVILLE
MUNDARE
RED DEER
STETTNER
STONY PLAIN
STRATHCONA
TOFIELD
VEGREVILLE
VERMILION
VIRGIN



The League has nothing to sell; its object is to provide accurate information
that prospective settlers may know the advantages of Central Alberta, and
yet not be disappointed on arrival by reason of having expected too much



IN CENTRAL ALBERTA :—Scene on Farm of Mr. Robert Smith, near Edmonton, September, 1910

CENTRAL ALBERTA,

THE GARDEN OF CANADA'S RICHEST PROVINCE.

Long ago, away back in the dim distant past, as things go in the Farther West, that is to say along in the early 70's, the entire Canadian West was devoted to the purposes of the Indian and halfbreed hunters, and the white and halfbreed traders, with the exception of a limited area in Manitoba around where Winnipeg now stands, and on the plains surrounding Portage la Prairie. Here met all the transportation systems of the country, that is to say, the great water courses; and agricultural settlements developed which were able to produce the main needs of the settlements in the way of food supplies. It might reasonably be supposed that from this nucleus, settlement would spread gradually and that settlers would have found their way into what is now Central Alberta only after the intervening territory was filled up.

This was not the case however. The conditions of those days, rendered necessary long journeys by traders and voyageurs away to the Northwest to meet the furs coming out of the Great Mackenzie Basin, and to exchange commodities with travellers from the far Northland. The early Manitoba settlers were in the habit of making great summer-long journeys into the plains of the far west in pursuit of the vanishing buffalo. A few men of science, and other travellers, in search of information or adventure, had penetrated the far western wilds in every direction. Those old time pioneers from the Red River Settlement were therefore thoroughly conversant with the country, and had a very clear idea where they were going, and why, when they struck out away to the Northwest and founded their new settlements. They located, not in the further portions of Manitoba which lay near at hand, not in the plains of Southern or Central Saskatchewan with which they were quite familiar, but pushed on westward and northward until they reached the best land they knew—what is now called Central Alberta, or as it was better known in the early days, the Edmonton

Early
Develop-
ment

They Know

**They
Wanted
the Best**

District. They wanted the rich black soil of a fertility only equalled by that they left, the luxuriant pastures, the more comfortable climatic conditions which were to be found in the partially timbered, well watered, parklike country which they found in the Valley of the Saskatchewan and along its tributaries in the neighborhood of Edmonton, St. Albert and Fort Saskatchewan.

**There's a
Reason**

From the early beginnings about Edmonton, settlement gradually spread outwards; and long after the C. P. R. in the early 80's, passed across what is now Alberta, but 200 miles to the South of the Edmonton Settlements, settlers by the thousands continued to make the trek northward from the railway into the rich lands of the Saskatchewan Valley, in preference to entering upon lands more readily accessible from the only railway there was then. They wanted the best, and were prepared to put up with such disadvantages as the absence of railway transportation and want of access to markets, in order to possess themselves of the fertile and pleasant land along the Saskatchewan, the Sturgeon, the Vermilion and Battle Rivers, and the Valley of the Red Deer, the latter being in the 80's approximately the dividing line between the rich agricultural lands of what is now Central Alberta, and the open plains of Southern Alberta, at that time devoted exclusively to cattle ranching.

**Geography
of Central
Alberta**

To give an idea of the extent and location of Central Alberta, it may be said that Edmonton, the Capital of the Province, and the commercial metropolis of Central Alberta is in Tp. 52, R. 21, W. of 4th, and is 800 miles west and somewhat north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and is 312 miles north of the international boundary. Vermilion and Wainwright to the east and southeast, are each 130 miles from Edmonton; Athabasca Landing is 105 miles to the north; Edson is 131 miles to the west; and Red Deer 100 miles to the south. Reference to the accompanying map will show location and approximate distance of other Central Alberta points.

Though referred to as Central Alberta, the district lies almost entirely in the southern half of the province, the centre line of the province passing a few miles south of Athabasca Landing.

**Not a
Wilderness**

This is a good country to farm in; a good place to do business in; and withal, a mighty pleasant place to live in. A stranger, wishing to get any proper conception of Central Alberta, must divest himself entirely of the usual idea that the whole of Western Canada consists of bare, bleak plains, with nothing to break the monotony; where the winters are long and severe, with deep snow and frequent blizzards; where trees are a curiosity, and where wheat is the one and only crop. On the contrary, Central Alberta is an attractive, pleasant, homelike country; a country that newcomers at once take to and to which they become quickly attached; and which offers advantages for great diver-

sity of farming operations. The women like it; the children like it. Occasionally people get homesick and dissatisfied; but a few weeks' visit "back home" is an infallible cure for that. The home country doesn't look the same after a sojourn in Central Alberta.

**Women
Like it**

In appearance, the country is gently undulating, a succession of ridges alternating with slight depressions. The country is freely interspersed with numerous creeks, streams, ponds and lakes; and there is everywhere ample timber to give the landscape a particularly pleasing appearance, and prevent anything like the monotony of an open prairie country. All uncultivated land is covered with a rich, rank growth of grass, wild pea-vine and vetch, with a wonderful wealth of wild flowers.

The winters in Central Alberta are neither long nor unduly severe; the snowfall is light, barely enough for sleighing, and blizzards are unknown.

**Light
Snowfall
No Blizzards**

In this great area of something like 50,000 square miles, there is, of course, considerable local variation in conditions; but generally speaking, the soil consists of a rich, black vegetable loam, varying from 12 to 30 inches or more in depth. In places this changes to a somewhat sandy loam, still nearly black; in other places to a light, chocolate-colored loam; and occasional areas occur of light sandy soil of comparatively low fertility, but which would be considered pretty fair land in most countries. Such areas are of limited extent, however, and the prevailing character of the soil is deep, black loam of great fertility. The subsoil is usually clay; but this again is subject to local variation.

Soil

"To the South, East, West and North of Edmonton there is a great area of the blackest and richest land I ever saw."

That is what the special staff correspondent of the Toronto Globe, a trained observer sent out a few years ago to report upon the resources of the country, wrote to his paper. The statement is true of many places in Central Alberta.

**Richest Soil
He Ever
Saw**

CLIMATE.—Central Alberta is certainly the most favored section of the entire prairie west on either side of the international boundary, so far as climate is concerned. People who have not experienced a Central Alberta winter are usually under the impression that it is more severe than that of the Eastern Provinces of Canada, or than that of the northern tier of States. Nothing could be more erroneous than this impression. Nowhere east of the Rocky Mountains, except in places where it is much too hot in summer, is there a more pleasant winter than in Central Alberta. On a typical cold winter day when the thermometer is at zero, no more clothing is needed than is worn in Toronto, Chicago or New York and, so far from experiencing

Climate

**Pleasant
Winters**

any particular discomfort, one cannot only walk or drive at this temperature without discomfort, but with keen enjoyment. It is true there are low temperatures registered, but these dips are only of very occasional occurrence and last only for brief periods.

It is impossible to form an opinion of the Central Alberta climate from temperature readings alone. Such records are no indication as to the desirability or otherwise, of the climate unless account is taken of the delightful, bright, dry, calm atmosphere which accompanies low temperatures. Thermometer records, without any knowledge of attendant conditions, are therefore very misleading. As a matter of fact the average winter temperature, as recorded at the Dominion Government meteorological station at Edmonton, is about the same as that registered in southern Minnesota, as shown by official reports, and higher than that of Duluth. The winters, however, are much more pleasant than in these localities.

**Light
Snowfall**

The snowfall in Central Alberta is very light, being considerably less than in any other portion of the Dominion, except a portion of the Pacific Coast. The fall of snow never exceeds twelve inches, and rarely reaches that depth, and frequently there is a depth of only about eight inches, which is barely enough for sleighing. During about twenty years that the Calgary and Edmonton Railway has been in operation, the train service has never been stopped, or even delayed, on account of snow in Central Alberta; and it is believed that there has never been a snow-plow over the road. The lines running into Central Alberta from the east have had little or no trouble with snow within this district and, during the six winters that the Canadian Northern Railway has been operating into Edmonton, only twice has a snow-plow come as far as Vegreville, and never west of that. During the two winters that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway has been in operation, no snow-plow has been over their 260 miles of line in Central Alberta.

**No Snow
Plows**

No Blizzards

There are no blizzards in Central Alberta. The high winds which prevail during the winter in some of the Western States and some portions of the Canadian West are very rare in Central Alberta.

Rainfall

RAINFALL.—No irrigation, or "dry-farming" methods are required in Central Alberta. The rainfall is ample and a luxuriant growth, both of cultivated crops and wild pasture and hay is always assured. Here again statistics are very misleading unless one understands attendant conditions. Somewhat curiously the total rainfall in Central Alberta, as shown by the records of the Government meteorological station at Edmonton, is not materially greater than in some districts where irrigation and "dry farming" methods are necessary. The explanation is that in Central Alberta there is usually a clay subsoil which holds the moisture it receives and con-

No Irrigation

**No Dry
Farming**

sequently requires comparatively light rainfall; and also that nearly the whole rainfall for the year occurs during the growing season. For instance, of the whole precipitation of about 20 inches for the year 1908, considerably more than half occurred during May and June, with lesser amounts during July and August, and only a trifling amount during the other eight months. The hot, parching winds sometimes experienced in western countries are unknown in Central Alberta. During the driest times ever experienced here there is a rank, rich, luxuriant growth of pasture, green throughout the season. **Rich Pasture**

RAPIDITY OF VEGETATION—The summers in Central Alberta are ideal for rapid growth of vegetation. Owing to the great length of the days—the sun shines for 18 hours a day at midsummer—and the copious, though not excessive, rains, together with the marvellous richness of the soil, there takes place a rapidity of growth which can only be realized by those who have seen it. Though the days are hot, the thermometer sometimes rising above 90 in the shade, the air is dry and the heat is not oppressive, and prostrations from heat are unknown. During the hottest weather the nights are cool. **Long Days**
Ample Moisture
Cool Nights

Mr. E. J. Ritchey, formerly of Toronto and now of 535 Sutherland Street, Edmonton, a gardener of considerable experience, writes: "I can grow a lot more in the way of vegetables here upon the same area of land than I could in Ontario. I can grow both better vegetables, and more of them. I have never practised artificial watering though I might easily have done so. I usually commence planting about April 1st. In 1910 I planted my sweet peas on the 28th of March and these were blooming profusely on the 1st of July. I planted peas in the first week of April and lettuce and spinach on the 12th of April. On the 1st of July I had cauliflowers and peas ready for use. My sweet peas continued to bloom until after the 20th of October, and the pansies were still in full bloom on the 1st of November." Mr. H. E. Teeple, of Camrose, formerly of Iowa, writes: "Small fruit does well. Cattle, horses and sheep all do fine. Last spring we began field work on March 10th, and the first killing frost was on September 8th." **Beats Ontario**
Length of Season

Crops—All ordinary crops, such as are usually grown anywhere in the eastern provinces of Canada, or in the more northerly or central western States, with the exception of tree fruits and corn, may be grown in Central Alberta; and generally with better results, greater yields being obtained with less labor, and with greater certainty.

It is a very difficult matter to give enquirers exact information as to what yields of various grains may be expected, as this depends to a very great extent upon the farmer himself, and the thoroughness with **As to Crop Yield**

which he cultivates. In a general way it may be safely said that in Central Alberta considerably larger yields may be expected than in any other portion of this continent, with the expenditure of the same amount of labor.

**Average
Yields**

The statistics compiled by the Government show the average yields in Central Alberta for the last few years to be about as follows: Spring Wheat, 23 bushels to the acre; Winter Wheat, 25 bushels; Oats, 46 bushels; Barley, 35 bushels. But it must be remembered that the Government figures cover every acre planted, whether by good farmers or poor; and that, in a new country, the poor farmers always predominate. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it is a common thing to see a good farmer with a field yielding 40 or 45 bushels of wheat to the acre, or 80 or 100 bushels of oats, or 50 bushels of barley; while immediately along-side, on exactly similar land, with only a wire fence between, his neighbor, who is a poor farmer, gets only half these yields, thus bringing down the average. What is ordinarily accomplished by farmers of some experience is therefore a better indication of the real capabilities of the country, than a mere statement of average yields. For this reason a number of representative farmers were written to for information as to the yields of their 1910 crop. It must be remembered that 1910 was a particularly unfavorable season throughout western Canada, as well as in the north western and central western States. But even in the worst season ever known, highly satisfactory results were obtained throughout Central Alberta.

**Spring
Wheat**

The district has been very successful in the production of hard wheat of very high milling value. While in the earlier years, only the Red or White Fife, and other spring varieties, were grown, it has been demonstrated during the last few years that Winter Wheat, particularly the hard variety known as "Alberta Red," is unusually successful, and the production of that cereal is increasing very rapidly. It is considered that nowhere on the Continent are conditions quite so favorable for the production of winter crops as in Central Alberta. Snow comes about the time the ground freezes in the Fall, and remains on the ground until Spring. Once the ground freezes, it never thaws out until Spring; and when Spring comes, it remains; there is no recurrence of Winter.

**Winter
Wheat**

At the great National Corn Exposition held at Columbus, Ohio, in February, 1910, at which every State in the Union, and every Province of Canada, furnished numerous competitors, the second prize in the great sweepstakes, for wheat, was captured by Mr. G. H. Hutton of Lacombe, in Central Alberta.

J. H. Mellick, Belmont Stock Farm, near Edmonton, reports 44½ bushels Winter Wheat to the acre; John Goutch, Section 16, Township 51, Range 23, West of 4th (Strathcona P. O.), reports 40 bushels

Winter Wheat to the acre: Henry Fulton, Section 24, Township 52, Range 23, West of 4th (Stratheona P. O.), reports 27 bushels Spring Wheat in 1910; C. Williams, East Half Section 28, Township 53, Range 22, West of 4th (Agricola P. O.), threshed 49 bushels to the acre of winter wheat in 1910.

It is generally admitted that Central Alberta produces the highest grade of Oats that are grown on the American continent, and gets the biggest yields to the acre. Oats as commonly sent to market by Central Alberta farmers, will be found to weigh anywhere from 38 to 44 lbs. to the measured bushel; and Oats testing 46 to 48 lbs. to the bushel are quite frequently grown, and samples testing 50lbs. are occasionally met with. Yields of 80, 90, 100 bushels and over to the acre are considered nothing out of the common. The Second Prize for Oats at the National Corn Exposition, was taken by Mr. G. H. Hutton of Lacombe, in Central Alberta.

Besides big yields of Oats of wonderful quality, very heavy straw is furnished, which makes valuable feed for stock.

This crop is grown extensively by Central Alberta farmers, and is exceedingly successful, yields of from 30 to 50 bushels to the acre being obtained of exceptionally plump, heavy grain. There is a good market for this for coalting purposes; but it is chiefly used for hog feed.

Peas have proved wonderfully successful and prolific in the garden, but have not as yet been grown extensively as a field crop. A few progressive farmers have recently experimented with this grain, however, and have demonstrated that peas can be successfully grown as a field crop, and the acreage to peas will rapidly increase.

Flax is an exceedingly successful crop throughout Central Alberta, the average yield for the district being over 18 bushels to the acre. The farmers generally, however, do not seem to care for this crop, and except in the south-eastern part of the district, there is no considerable acreage of it grown.

Mr. J. B. Gordon of Camrose, formerly of North Dakota, writes: "In 1910, I broke 27 acres and on May 10th sowed it to Flax. In the last week of October, I took off the crop and sold it for \$341 cash."

Rye, particularly the winter variety, does exceedingly well and gives exceptionally good yields of splendid sample. Though not extensively grown, some farmers are raising some rye, principally for hog feed.

Beans have never been tried as a field crop, so far as the writer is aware.

Ordinary root crops have proved exceptionally successful. The mangel-wurzel, sugar-mangel, and rutabaga, are as yet not widely grown. Owing to the abundance of other forms of feed and the cheapness with which they can be produced, the ordinary farmer has not felt

much need for root crops. Some of the dairymen, however, are now growing these roots extensively, and with very great success.

Potatoes

Potatoes are an exceptionally safe crop, yielding readily with comparatively little cultivation, anywhere from 300 to 500 bushels to the acre. They grow to great size and of very fine, clean, smooth appearance; and of very fine boiling qualities, when judgment is used in selection of soil and location.

Vegetables

It is probable that Central Alberta will produce more and better vegetables, grown under ordinary conditions, than any other section of the Dominion. Nowhere from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic, has the writer seen such cabbages, cauliflowers, beets, carrots, peas, beans, parsnips, celery, etc., as are commonly to be seen growing in the gardens of many sections of the district, without any particular effort to assist nature, in the way of fertilizing or artificial watering. The marvellously fertile soil, with the ample rainfall and summer warmth, but without scorching heat, accomplish more than all the arts known to the Eastern market gardener.

The production of such crops, particularly near a large centre such as Edmonton, is particularly profitable, there being at all times an excellent demand at highly profitable prices.

Timothy

HAY AND FODDER CROPS—Wild Hay is plentiful in many portions of the district, particularly in the newer sections. Timothy has been found to be very successful, and a large acreage is sown to this grass in some sections of the district, and has proved highly profitable. Brome Grass and Rye Grass have been found to yield abundantly. The clovers have as yet been grown only in an experimental way, and farmers have not yet felt that they are a necessity. When tried under favorable conditions, however, the common red clover has been found to do remarkably well, producing a fine stand. The same may be said of Alsike.

Brome Grass

Clover

Alsike

Alfalfa

Alfalfa has not yet been grown to any large extent; but a large number of farmers, particularly in the neighborhood of Edmonton and Stratheona, are trying this crop in a small way, and have demonstrated beyond doubt that conditions are eminently suited to Alfalfa, and the acreage under this crop is likely to increase rapidly.

Green Feed

Green Oats is the crop most largely grown for dairy feed, as this crop can be raised at very slight expense and is found very satisfactory feed. As Oats commonly grow from four to six feet high in Central Alberta, and proportionately thick on the ground, enormous yields are obtained, and can be relied upon any and every season.

FRUIT

Fruit

Though Tree Fruits have not yet been successfully raised in the Western Canadian Provinces, it has been amply demonstrated that all small fruits do exceptionally well in Central Alberta. Raspberries, straw-

berries, black currants, and gooseberries grow wild in the greatest profusion throughout the district. These fruits, as well as red and white currants, have proved a great success under cultivation. The rich soil, adequate moisture and absence of extreme heat or parching winds are particularly favorable to the production of great yields of fruit of wonderfully fine size, appearance and flavor. **Climate Favorable**

Mr. James Chegwin, of Leduc P. O., for many years a strawberry farmer in the Niagara district, the great fruit section of Eastern Canada, reports that he has been uniformly successful in raising strawberries on his farm west of Leduc, and that this industry is more profitable in Central Alberta than in Niagara. In 1910, Mr. Chegwin's strawberries returned him \$1,500 per acre. Mr. A. G. Bennett, of Rexboro, forty miles west of Edmonton; Mr. Robt. Easton of East Clover Bar, twelve miles east of Edmonton; Mr. D. W. Warner of Edmonton, and several others have tried strawberry culture with great success. **Beats Niagara**

Notwithstanding the uniform success attending the culture of small fruits throughout the district, and an unlimited market at highly profitable prices, scarcely any attention is being given to the industry, and practically all the fruit used in the cities, towns and villages of Central Alberta, is shipped in at great expense for carriage from the neighboring province of British Columbia.

MIXED FARMING

While Central Alberta can and does produce splendid crops of wheat, aggregating millions of bushels annually, the conditions are peculiarly favorable to mixed farming, and it is the advantages in this direction which render Central Alberta more desirable than other portions of the West. It is generally recognized by our farmers that where conditions are so favorable for growing grain, hay, roots and vegetables, for the production of fodder crops, and for the cheap handling of cattle, all on the same farm, better results can be obtained from mixed farming, under which the quality of the land improves, than from exclusive wheat growing, under which the land must inevitably deteriorate. **Mixed Farming**

Nature has so liberally provided the district with streams and ponds, rich luscious pasture, as well as an abundance of wild hay in the newer districts, that it would be unwise not to turn these advantages to account by keeping cattle on every farm. The soil and climate are especially suited to the production of cultivated grasses and fodder crops, and the enormous stacks of wheat straw and oat straw left on the fields after threshing provide fodder of considerable value for a large number of cattle. Cattle can, therefore, be wintered at a trifling cost with exceedingly profitable results. **Cheap Feed**

**Cheap
Cattle**

Nowhere can better cattle be raised or at less cost. The rich summer pasture, absence of extreme heat, and comparative freedom from mosquitoes, or other pests, in conjunction with the easy winter and the great yield of hay crops, and the ease with which it is saved, make this an ideal cattle country. Owing to the peculiarly favorable climatic conditions, cattle can be wintered very advantageously. The winters are not unduly long, neither is there the damp, raw cold and sleety weather so often encountered in the Eastern Provinces of Canada and many of the States. It is generally considered unnecessary to stable growing cattle, and these are usually allowed to run at large during the winter about the great stacks of straw left on the fields, which form their principal ration. They find all the shelter necessary in the clumps of timber and patches of scrub about the farm. It can easily be seen that in this way cattle can be wintered almost without cost.

Don't Stable

Mr. O. J. Mosier, late of Iowa, writes from Daysland, Alta., under date of March 2nd, 1911, as follows:—

"Stock of any description does exceedingly well with the free range and an abundance of grass. I believe we can raise horses and cattle cheaper here than in almost any other place on the globe, for they get fat on the range; and by running them to oat straw, with nothing but the brush groves to shelter them during the winter months, they winter in fine shape. By feeding them the prairie hay they will be fat to go on the range in the Spring.

**Away Ahead
of Iowa**

As to grain raising I consider this district among the best when mixed farming is concerned. I had 2,100 bushels of wheat of fine quality on 71 acres. Oats do splendidly, often weighing from 40 to 50 lbs. to the bushel, and yielding from 75 to 100 bushels to the acre. I will almost vouch that the farmer here can make two dollars to one that he can make in the States where I come from, by putting the same amount of energy in farming and stock-raising as we did there."

It Sure pays

The bunch of steers shown in the accompanying illustration are such as may be seen on almost any farm in Central Alberta. The owner of these cattle told the writer that these animals had never seen the inside of a stable, nor had they ever eaten anything which cost anything, having fed during the summer on wild pasture and in the winter principally on the stacks of straw left on the farmer's field. It will readily be understood that under such conditions mixed farming in Central Alberta is highly profitable and satisfactory.

**South
Dakota**

Mr. E. B. Snider of Camrose, who came to Central Alberta from South Dakota eleven years ago with total worldly possessions valued at \$300, and who now owns 480 acres of the finest land it is possible to get, all paid for, with considerable improvements, and a lot of fine cattle, writes under date of March 21st, 1911:—

"This is the best country I know of for stock raising. For several years past I have had from 50 to 100 head of cattle which I have always disposed of at a good profit. Cattle can be raised with very little care or expense. I am strongly in favor of mixed farming rather than grain raising only. The resources of the country are so bountiful, that if a man is willing to work, he is sure to get to the front and be "well heeled" in a few years."

Mr. J. R. Van Petten writes from Camrose as follows:—

"You may consider me a convert to this country. I came to this district from Kansas, and homesteaded on a quarter section with the idea of going in for stock raising, as I did not think the country would be suitable for anything else; but I soon changed my mind. My four boys also took homesteads and we are all now strong for mixed farming. With ten years' experience, I should be a good judge of what cattle can do in this country. The first winter I built a warm shed to shelter my cattle from the cold, but they would not stay in the shed; the light brush gave them all the protection they wanted, and they practically wintered out of doors. The climate is moderate, and blizzards are unknown. My experience in grain raising has been only in recent years, but I have raised as much as 100 bushels of oats to the acre. This is my first year for winter wheat, but I know from the experience of neighbours that I may expect an abundant yield."

DAIRYING

Dairy cattle can be handled more cheaply in Central Alberta than probably in any other portion of the continent. As previously stated, feed can be produced very cheaply. The period for which cattle have to be housed is more limited than in most other portions of Canada; even during mid-winter it is customary for milking cows to be turned out during the day. Notwithstanding the fact that cattle can be handled and fed very cheaply, the prices obtained by dairy farmers in Central Alberta are much higher than those usually obtained elsewhere. Throughout the older settled portions of the district, creameries have been established. Some of these are under the direction of the Provincial Government, which has pursued a very progressive policy in the way of encouraging and assisting the establishment of creameries wherever there is a sufficient number of cows to warrant it; and the Department has also established a very effective organization for the marketing of the output of these or other creameries wishing to avail themselves of its services, with the result that the creameries are always sure of exceedingly satisfactory prices for their output,

the patrons supplying the cream receiving the full benefit of the high prices obtained, less a certain fixed sum for the cost of manufacture

**Splendid
Markets**

In addition to the small creameries scattered throughout the district, there is a practically unlimited market with large institutions in the city of Edmonton, the commercial metropolis of the district, and this market is available to anyone within a reasonable shipping distance. Inquiry at one of the principal dairies in Edmonton shows that for the year 1910 the average price for butter fat obtained by farmers supplying cream was 27½ cents per lb. For January, 1911, the average was 31 cents and for February 33 cents. These prices were paid for delivery at the dairy, or in cans at any railway station, within shipping distance.

High Prices

Mr. E. Sevigny, of St. Albert, writes, in reply to an inquiry: "During the year 1910, I delivered 11,515 lbs. of cream for which I received \$970.42. I kept, during the year, an average of 12 cows." This shows an average of \$80.87 for each cow.

Mr. Geo. W. Wilkerson, of Leduc, writes: "I received in 1910 \$2,143.51 for 25,487 lbs. of cream shipped, which was the product of 40 cows." (\$8.41 per 100 lbs.).

Mr. J. A. Davis, of Cherry Hill Farm, Clover Bar, writes: "During the year 1910, I delivered to the Edmonton City Dairy, 150,849 lbs. of milk, for which I received \$2,819.87. (\$1.87 per 100 lbs.). I also separated 4,815 lbs. of cream for which the returns were \$431.57 in cash. (\$8.96 per 100 lbs.). The average number of cows milked each month was twenty-seven." It will be noticed that Mr. Davis thus obtained an average of \$120.42 from each cow.

**How
Is This?**

Mr. J. Toane, using Stratheona P. O., writes: "From an average herd of 18 cows I delivered 136,896 lbs. of milk in 1910, for which I received the sum of \$2,481.68 (\$1.81 per 100 lbs.), making an average of \$138.83 per cow."

It will be noticed that farmers supplying cream not only receive excellent returns but they have in addition skim milk for feeding purposes, which they turn to good account in the raising of hogs.

**Bigger
Returns**

It will thus be seen that Central Alberta dairy farmers, on land costing only from \$15 to \$40 an acre, are getting much better returns than can be obtained by farmers on land worth from \$75 to \$250 an acre in the Eastern Provinces of Canada and the principal dairy States, where it costs at least a half more to feed their cows.

Less Cost

HOG RAISING

Hogs

In a country with such great advantages for dairying, hog raising naturally comes in for a good deal of attention. The farmer from the corn States always wants to know if we can grow corn, which is con-

sidered essential to hog raising. Our summers, though long enough for corn, are not hot enough. However, barley is an exceedingly satisfactory crop; and the labor required to make an acre of corn will, in Central Alberta, produce about ten acres of the finest and plumpest barley. Hogs fed on dairy waste, with some pasture, and finished on roots and crushed barley, can be turned into hams and bacon that will command the market in preference to the corn-fed product.

No Corn

**Don't
Need It**

Central Alberta farmers are assured of a good market for their hogs. There is always a demand for shipment out of the district; and at the cities of Edmonton and Strathcona there are developing great packing industries which will provide an unlimited market. The Swift plant at Edmonton, representing an investment of over a million dollars, is the largest and best equipped packing plant in Canada. During the year 1911, another plant on somewhat similar lines will be erected, and several small plants are in operation. The rapid and phenomenal development of these industries about Edmonton is the best possible testimony as to the great resources of Central Alberta as a mixed farming country.

**Packing
Plants**

HORSE RAISING

In a country of unexcelled pasture, producing the finest oats in the world, and with climatic conditions which permit horses to run out the year round, horse raising naturally occupies an important place. Visitors to Central Alberta invariably remark upon the unusually high quality of the horses seen upon the streets of our cities, towns and villages, and met with on the country roads. There is at all times a keen demand for all classes of horses, of good quality, at exceedingly profitable prices.

Horses

Mr. W. R. Stewart, late of Emerson, Man., writes from Daysland as follows: "As a stock country this has no equal. If you want to feed in the winter, hay is abundant. I have wintered a lot of horses since I came here two years ago. I have never kept them in or fed them anything and they have always come out in fine shape in the Spring. There were two strays in the bunch, advertised and unclaimed, consequently sold. They brought \$150 and \$160 each, cash; not bad for unbroken horses. I sold two teams of mares, one weighing 2,800 lbs. for \$550, and the other weighing 2,900 lbs. for \$600. They were never in the stable all winter but ran on the range and fed on grass."

Looks Easy

**Never
Stabled**

To again quote from Mr. J. R. Van Petten, the Kansas man who has made good at Camrose:—

"This is also a great horse country. I never stable my colts, but turn them on the prairie with a shed for shelter if they wish it. I don't exactly let them rustle for themselves as I make it a practice in the winter time to give them one feed of

grain a day. This brings them through the winter in excellent condition."

SHEEP

Sheep

Somewhat curiously, sheep are not raised in Central Alberta to any great extent, though conditions appear to be entirely favorable for this industry, and there is a splendid market for both mutton and wool, at excellent prices. All the farmers who have tried sheep appear to have been uniformly successful. Amongst these might be mentioned Mr. E. A. Walker, formerly of Brant County, Ontario, who writes from Strathcona Post Office:—

"Sheep raising in this section of the country is very satisfactory and profitable. I consider the Strathcona district to be one of the best mixed farming countries in Western Canada; and the best thing any young man can do is to come west. I consider that the climate of Central Alberta is better in every respect than that of Ontario."

Wintered Well

Mr. George F. Root of Red Deer, formerly of Butler County, Iowa, reports that in October, 1910, he brought over 2625 lambs from Montana. These animals were in the worst possible condition, having been starved in Montana all summer. Notwithstanding this, however, Mr. Root's entire loss during the winter, amounted to only nineteen head.

POULTRY

Poultry

Nowhere in Canada is the keeping of poultry more successful or more profitable. The bright clear air seems exactly what the birds need; and they are peculiarly free from vermin, or other troubles to which they are subject in other countries. Poultry raisers in Central Alberta seem to think that they can raise heavier and better birds at less expense, than elsewhere; and with reasonable care they get exceedingly satisfactory results in the way of eggs.

Mr. E. J. Ritchey, of 535 Sutherland Street, Edmonton, formerly of Toronto, writes:—

"I find this a splendid country for keeping poultry. Birds can be fed cheaply, and I have no trouble with any kind of disease or vermin. I am keeping Buff Orpingtons, which are not a particularly hardy breed, and I have no trouble whatever in wintering. My hens lay well and my chickens kill at splendid weights. The market for both eggs and dressed poultry is at all times exceptionally good. I consider that this climate, either winter or summer, is preferable to that of Toronto."

The market for poultry and eggs is practically unlimited and prices rule very high. Dressed poultry is readily saleable at from 14 to 18

cents per pound, and eggs bring from 20 to 60 cents per dozen, though the market usually touches the lower figure only for a brief period. The extent of the Alberta market may be understood when it is stated that notwithstanding quite extensive production in Central Alberta, the railway companies report that there were shipped into Alberta in 1910, approximately 200 car loads of poultry products. This came from the eastern provinces of Canada, where conditions for producing it are not as favorable as in Central Alberta, and paid freight charges on a haul of over two thousand miles. **Big Market**

OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

The resources of Central Alberta are by no means limited to the products of the farm. The district has timber and mineral resources of enormous value. These not only permit very great industrial development; but they are a factor of tremendous importance to the agricultural population, as farmers and other residents of Central Alberta are at all times assured of practically inexhaustible supplies of cheap fuel and lumber. This can only be fully appreciated by those who have lived in a country devoid of timber and coal. **Timber**
Minerals

COAL

The coal supply of Central Alberta is referred to in the reports of the Geological Survey branch of the Department of Mines of the Dominion of Canada as The Edmonton Formation, and is said to consist of a known area 10,600 square miles, with a coal content estimated at 60,000 millions of tons. There is no reason to suppose, however, that anything like all the coal resources have yet been discovered; and it is probable that the estimate, both as to area and content will be greatly increased with fuller knowledge. It is known, however, that coal exists throughout a great portion of the area of Central Alberta. While the greatest activity in coal production is in the thirty or forty mines being worked in the neighborhood of Edmonton and Strathcona, and at Morinville, coal has been found, and development has commenced at many other points in the district. A line drawn north and south through Tofield, Camrose and Stettler, down to the Red Deer River, would appear to denote about the eastern boundary of this great coal field. From that line westward to the Rocky Mountains coal appears to be freely distributed. Besides the points from which coal can be shipped by rail, such as Edmonton, Strathcona, Clover Bar, Morinville, St. Albert, Leduc, Camrose, Daysland, Entwistle, Edson and Tofield, there are many small mines not yet accessible by rail from which farmers can haul such coal as they need. The mining regulations provide for coal being supplied to settlers at the mines at a price of not more than \$1.75 per ton. **Coal**
\$1.75 per ton

TIMBER

Timber

The district is liberally supplied with timber for fuel and building purposes. While the eastern edge of Central Alberta, south of the Saskatchewan, is mostly clear open prairie with just sufficient timber to afford protection for stock, further west the timber gradually increases, and along the line of the Calgary and Edmonton branch of the C. P. R. there is considerable poplar timber of fair size, the areas of open prairie alternating with patches of timber, in other places the land being covered with light poplar scrub, easily cleared. This scrub

Firewood

land, though not so easily brought under the plow as the clear prairie, makes wonderfully fine farms when cleared. Further west, spruce of good milling value is plentiful, and extensive lumbering operations are carried on at Edmonton and Strathcona, cutting logs brought down the Saskatchewan and its tributaries. There are also saw mills at Red Deer on the river of that name; and small mills are operated at many points not served by railways, to supply the local demand for lumber. North of the Saskatchewan, the country may be said to be partially timbered the entire width of the province, spruce, tamarac, poplar and birch occurring everywhere in ample quantities to supply the needs of the settlers and for many local milling industries.

Lumber

From the foregoing it will be readily understood that the matter of fuel supply need not cause any worry to the Central Alberta farmer; and he is always assured of a supply of lumber at reasonable prices. Rough lumber costs from \$16 to \$22 per thousand in any of the districts where lumbering is carried on.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Not a Wilderness

People thinking of coming to Central Alberta should at once divest themselves of any idea that they will have to endure anything in the way of hardship or serious privation of any kind. In the settled portions of the district, rendered accessible by railways, conditions will be found as advanced, generally speaking, as in rural districts in any but the best developed portions of the eastern provinces or the United States. Edmonton, the commercial, financial, and educational centre of the district, though only having attained any importance within the last eight or ten years, and still only having a population estimated at about 28,000, will be found to be more progressive, to have better facilities for doing business, to have better business buildings, better homes, better schools and churches, than towns elsewhere on the continent of much greater population and many decades older.

No Hardships

People Progressive

The same is relatively true of the smaller towns and villages. Little towns of a few hundred people, which in some cases have come into existence within the last three or four years, are provided with

better stores and general business equipment, and better schools and churches and hotels than would usually be found in any rural district in Eastern Canada or the United States.

Progressive ideas prevail throughout the country. Edmonton was the first town in Canada to own and operate its own electric light and power, and telephone systems. It was also the first town in Canada to build and operate a municipally owned street railway system. Edmonton was the first city in Canada to adopt a modern system of taxation, under which land value only is the basis of assessment. Edmonton's example has been followed by smaller towns with very progressive tendencies, such as Strathcona and Red Deer. Alberta was the first Canadian province to instal a publicly owned telephone system, owned and operated by the government, and covering practically the entire settled portion of the province. This was done, notwithstanding that one of the great monopolies was already on the ground. The monopoly sold out to the Government, and retired from long-distance business in Alberta. Edmonton was the first city in Western Canada and the second in the Dominion to instal the modern automatic telephone system.

**Modern
Ideas in
Alberta**

In many of the better settled portions of the district the farmers are supplied with telephone service, 290 such 'phones being served from the exchanges at Edmonton and Strathcona, and large numbers from all the smaller towns.

**Farm
Telephones**

Rural mail delivery is afforded farmers along all main roads throughout the district. Good schools, churches, post offices and fair roads are found everywhere throughout the settled portions of Central Alberta.

**Rural Mail
Delivery**

From the foregoing, it will be seen that not much in the way of "roughing it" need be encountered by the prospective settler, and that he will have much the same conveniences as in much older communities. This statement of course does not apply to districts of Central Alberta where free land is still available, as settlement must precede such development.

**No "Rough-
ing it"**

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Prospective settlers in rural districts need have no anxiety in regard to the possibility of getting their children educated. The Provincial Government has adopted a very progressive policy in regard to public education, and has made very liberal provision for the establishment and maintenance of rural schools. Any rural community where four families are in residence, with at least eight children of school age; is permitted to organize itself into a Public School District, to include territory not more than five miles each way. The school district is authorized to sell its debentures, payable

**Educational
Facilities**

**Liberal
Provisions**

in a number of years, to cover the cost of the school building and equipment. The Provincial Government makes a liberal annual grant towards the cost of maintenance. All lands within the limits of the school district, other than Government land, and in some cases certain other reservations, are permitted to be taxed to meet the balance of current expenses and provide for maturing debentures. Thus the nonresident land owner or the resident without children is compelled to contribute his share towards the maintenance of the school.

The schools are under the direct control and supervision of the Provincial Department of Education, and a high standard of efficiency is maintained. If more advanced education is required than can be imparted at country schools, it is always practicable for pupils requiring higher education to attend High School, or Collegiate Institute at one of the larger towns; or the Alberta Provincial University at Strathecona.

ROADS.

Roads

The Provincial Department of Public Works undertakes all larger expenditures in connection with roads, such as the building of bridges, and other heavy expenditure on main roads. The making and maintaining of roads apart from these heavy items is left in the hands of the settlers interested. Local Improvement Districts are permitted to be organized, and a rate may be levied on all taxable lands within the district, to be used for road improvement purposes.

TAXES.

Taxes

**No State
Taxes**

There are no taxes other than such as settlers see fit to impose on themselves for the maintenance of schools, and for local road improvements. There are no Government taxes, either Federal or Provincial, the Province deriving its revenue from certain subsidies from the federal treasury, and various fees and licenses. The tax for school purposes is limited to not more than \$16 per year on each quarter section of 160 acres; and for road improvement, not more than \$8 on each quarter section.

In incorporated towns and villages, such municipalities arrange such matters to suit their own convenience, within certain limitations fixed by provincial legislation.

LAW AND ORDER

**Laws
Observed**

In no portion of this continent is life and property safer than in Central Alberta, nor is there a more general observance of the law. Nothing approaching lawlessness has ever prevailed in the country, and

the law has always been upheld at all cost. This has been made possible owing to the fact that public sentiment has always been solidly for strict enforcement of the laws; and the form of government provides the means for doing this. The form of government is democratic in the extreme, the government being in the hands of the people, not only in name, but in fact.

**Laws
Enforced**

POPULATION

The country is settled by people of considerable diversity of race and language, but the English speaking people are in the great majority. While these are principally from Eastern Canada or Great Britain, a large number are former citizens of the United States. There are also a number of foreigners from the United States; that is to say, Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, etc., who have lived some years in some of the States, and moved to Western Canada. There are also representatives of the same nationalities direct from Europe, as well as French, Belgians, Hollanders, Danes, Russians, Poles, etc. Generally speaking, however, the population is composed of people whose native tongue is English. Such foreigners as there are show creditable readiness to learn English, adapt themselves to our institutions and become creditable Canadian citizens.

The People

**Principally
Anglo-Saxon**

**Some
Europeans**

MARKETS

The farmers are certainly highly favored as regards a market for their products. These markets, and the means of reaching them are constantly improving; and notwithstanding the phenomenal rapidity with which production is increasing, the time is not in sight when production can overtake the possible demand. It is sometimes suggested that Alberta is too far from the Atlantic seaboard to find ready market for her products. But it should be understood that Central Alberta, at least, is in no way dependent upon the Atlantic seaboard. Our market is principally a western one.

Markets

Alongside of us is the great province of British Columbia, rich in timber, minerals and fish, but not producing much in the way of grain or animal products. Her lumber camps, mining towns, fruit growers, fishing stations, and the great commercial cities growing up on the coast are principally dependent upon outside sources for flour, oatmeal, oats and other feed stuffs and hay, butter, cheese, fresh and cured meats and poultry products. All these Central Alberta can supply. In Southern Alberta is a great area devoted to winter wheat where few cows are kept on the farms, and which, as well as the extensive coal industries, provides an excellent market for our meat and dairy products. Immediately to the east is the province of Saskatchewan, principally open-plains country more suited for production of wheat

**Our Best
Customer**

than for mixed farming, the southern and central portions of the province providing a good market for dairy products.

**Home
Market**

Then there is an excellent home market, which is of course the most valuable. There is a large industrial population to be fed, engaged in lumbering and in coal mining, which industries, particularly the latter, will shortly reach very large proportions. The entire province of Saskatchewan must be supplied with coal from Alberta, most of the settled area of that province having neither wood nor coal. With the development of the great Brazeau fields south of Edson, extensive production from which is now in sight, mining towns will spring up which must be fed from Central Alberta. Then for many years to come railway construction camps will absorb an enormous amount of Central Alberta farm produce. All the great transcontinental lines are increasing their mileage in Alberta and in tributary territory in British Columbia with feverish activity. The men and animals employed must be fed principally by Central Alberta farms.

**Mining
Towns**

**Construction
Camps**

Only in a single product is Alberta at a disadvantage as compared with the other western provinces, and that condition is only temporary. The freight rate on wheat from Central Alberta points to Liverpool averages about 10 cents per 100 pounds higher than from Manitoba points, and about 5 cents per 100 pounds more than from the principal wheat shipping points in Saskatchewan. But on the other hand, statistics show the average yield of wheat in Central Alberta to be from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 bushels per acre higher than in Manitoba, so that the Central Alberta wheat fields produce more in dollars and cents, on an export basis, than do those of Manitoba. However, as already explained, conditions in Central Alberta are so favorable for a better class of farming and for the production of many commodities more profitable than wheat, that wheat is only one of many factors in the operations of our farmers. It must be remembered also, that long before there is any prospect that our production will have overtaken the rapidly growing western market for our products, the Panama Canal will be in operation; and Central Alberta will then be very considerably nearer Liverpool and the world's markets, so far as freight rates are concerned, than any other wheat shipping portion of Canada.

**Acres Worth
More**

**Panama
Canal**

**What is it
Worth?**

WHAT IS LAND WORTH?

The intrinsic value of Central Alberta land is of course a matter of opinion, and cannot be stated definitely. But it can be stated as a fact that, on the average, the land is richer and more fertile than any area of similar extent on the American continent, where general farming is followed. It will produce more, and produce it with less labor and with greater certainty. More grain can be raised to the acre; horses or

cattle can be raised with less expense; dairy cows can be fed cheaper; the markets for farm products average somewhat better; a desirable climate goes with it. Why, then, is the land not worth at least as much as the highest priced farm land in Ontario, Quebec, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois or any other place where mixed farming is carried on? It is certainly worth vastly more than in any portion of the West where conditions tend to the production of grain only.

There is very little land in Central Alberta today that, in five years or less, will not look cheap at twice what it can now be bought for. The great advantages of the country are each year coming to be more clearly understood; and each season a rapidly increasing number of experienced and well-to-do farmers are coming into the district to buy farms. This keen demand, coupled with high intrinsic value, is having its inevitable effect. Land which was bought ten years ago at \$3 an acre is today worth \$30.

**Cheap at
Twice the
Price**

As values vary so much with local conditions, depending upon location of land and proximity to towns, the size of the towns, and the degree of development of the immediate neighborhood, it is difficult to state definite prices; but in a general way, it may be said that wild land of good quality within two or three miles of a small country railway station, may still be bought at about \$15 per acre. Similar land near a larger town might cost \$20 or \$25. Within five miles of Edmonton land is held at from \$75 to \$200 per acre. The higher prices are of course speculative, induced by the prospective growth of the city. Ten to fifteen miles out from Edmonton or Strathcona, wild land may be bought at from \$20 to \$30 an acre.

**What it
Costs**

Improved farms may be bought at from \$20 to \$50 an acre, depending on location and value of improvements. It must be remembered that in many cases these lands have every convenience in the way of good roads, good markets, good schools and churches, good neighbors, telephone service, railway service and rural mail service, that is available in some places where land at least no better sells for \$100, \$150, or \$200 an acre.

The "Rural New Yorker," one of the best informed Agricultural papers in the United States, recently stated editorially (March, 1910):

**United
States
Opinion**

"The man in Alberta will be as near the wheat or cattle market as he who lives in Iowa or Kansas; yet the former can find land at \$20 even superior to that for which the latter must pay \$150."

Mr. H. E. Teeple, of S.E. 15-46-20, west of the 4th meridian, Camrose P.O., a former Iowan, thinks Central Alberta away ahead of Iowa, both for soil, climate and general farming conditions. He writes: "I consider Central Alberta land first-class as an investment. Ten years ago I bought land at \$3.00 an acre which is now

**Ahead of
Iowa**

worth \$30.00 and I expect the next 5 years to exceed the past 10 for increase in value. Any man who comes here and attends to business half as well as he does in the east, will succeed; and those who still remain sceptical for five years more will find the best West gone and the cheap land with it."

**Won't Wait
For You**

Unquestionably the rapid increase in land values predicted by Mr. Teeple for the next 5 years is going to take place. Better get in now while it is still cheap.

**Reliable
Agents**

Reliable land men, usually with an intimate personal knowledge of the surrounding country will be found at any of the places participating in the Central Alberta Development League, referred to on page 26, through whose assistance farms may be purchased.

Terms Easy

It does not take a lot of capital to buy this land. The great land-holding companies, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company, sell on very easy terms, only a very small cash payment being required, the balance being spread over from six to ten years, subject to a very moderate rate of interest. In the case of purchase from individuals such easy terms cannot be obtained; but it is not usually necessary to pay in cash more than about one-third of the purchase price, the balance being arranged on mortgage at interest from 7 to 8 per cent.

HOMESTEADS.

Free Land

Free land may still be obtained in the extreme north and westerly sections of Central Alberta. A homestead consists of a quarter section, or 160 acres, for which entry may be made at the office of the agent of Dominion Lands, upon payment of an entry fee of \$10.00. At the expiration of three years, or as soon thereafter as the necessary formalities can be complied with, patent will be issued to the homesteader without any further payment, provided he has complied with certain requirements as to residence, improvement and cultivation, as provided in the homestead regulations, a synopsis of which will be found on the back of the map of Central Alberta accompanying this pamphlet.

**No Pre-
emptions**

No pre-emptions can be obtained in Central Alberta and no government land can be purchased.

**Government
Land Offices**

The Dominion Land Office for Central Alberta lands is situated at Edmonton. For the convenience of settlers, sub-agencies have been established at Athabasca Landing, Belvedere, Daysland, Edison, Edson, Entwistle, Fort Saskatchewan, Green Court, Innisfree, Lac la Biche, Leduc, Morinville, Pine Creek, Ponoka, Saddle Lake, Sedgewick, St. Paul de Metis, Vegreville, Vermilion, Wabamun, Wainwright, Wetaskiwin and Whitford.

Generally speaking, all free land of good quality along lines of

railway is taken up in advance of construction of such railway. It must not therefore be expected that homesteads will be found available in sections easily accessible from railways now in operation. No free land is left along or between any of the railways leading south or east from Edmonton. Free land is still available, however, along the east side of the Saskatchewan at a distance of from 75 to 100 miles south-west from Edmonton, and a distance of 50 miles or thereabouts from the Calgary and Edmonton line. Land is also available 100 to 125 miles to the north-west of Edmonton in districts reached from the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern main line now building. There is also free land in the neighborhood of Athabasca Landing, to which point the Canadian Northern branch line will be completed during the coming summer (1911). Land is also available on the north side of the Saskatchewan river beginning at a distance of about 75 miles north-east from Edmonton.

Maps of the Edmonton land district showing the number of quarter sections available for homestead entry in each township, revised up to January 1st, 1911, may be had on application to the Agent of Dominion Lands at Edmonton, or to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, at Ottawa. It must be understood, however, that many changes have taken place since the date upon which that map was compiled, and parties proposing to go out and look for homesteads should obtain from the Dominion Lands Office, at the time of starting, exact information in regard to such townships as they propose to look over.

**Homestead
Maps**

While there are still left for homesteading, millions of acres of land of the very finest quality, so far as soil is concerned, it must be understood that little of this is clear open prairie ready for the plow. The entire area of homestead land is partially timbered country, and small areas of clear land alternate with patches of light scrub and clumps of timber, and no extensive fields can be brought under cultivation without more or less clearing.

**Partially
Timbered**

While the chance of obtaining full title to 160 acres of first-class land for a cash outlay of only \$10.00 is very tempting, it must be borne in mind that there are many disadvantages and discouragements in connection with homesteading and, if at all practicable, it will generally be found more profitable to buy land in some of the settled portions of the district, within easy reach of centres of population, and accessible to markets, in preference to going to the remote fringe of settlement for free land, to await, under difficult conditions, the advent of means of communication with markets and the development only possible in settled districts served by railways and equipped with wagon roads and every other convenience. This applies with particular force to those whose previous experience has not been

**Often Better
To Buy**

**Cheaper to
Buy**

such as to fit them to cope with the difficulties inseparable from pioneering. This is clearly recognized even by many of the experienced pioneers who are now coming into Central Alberta from many of the central western States. These men think that such land as they find in the older districts within easy reach of railways, is cheaper at from \$12 to \$30 per acre, than free land on the outskirts of settlement. They understand that men who are in a position to buy this land are likely to make more money, and make it easier and with greater comfort to their families, than those who go out for free land.

At the same time, for those who are not in a position to buy land, many millions of acres of free land are still available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

**More Local
Information**

Should further information be required regarding land, or business opportunities, in any particular locality, it is suggested that enquiry should be sent to the Secretaries of the Boards of Trade at the following points in Central Alberta:

Athabasca Landing	Irma	Stettler
Bruce	Killam	Stony Plain
Camrose	Lavoy	Strathcona
Daysland	Leduc	Tofield
Edmonton	Lougheed	Vegreville
Edson	Millet	Vermilion
Entwistle	Morinville	Viking,
Hardisty	Mundare	
Hokden	Red Deer	

or to C. B. Morton, Secretary-Treasurer of Erskine.

These gentlemen will at any time be glad to furnish information of a more local character in regard to their particular districts. If writing for such information, please advise them that you have received this pamphlet.

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